



# Commander, Naval Surface Force, Atlantic

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U.S. NAVY



## USS BATAAN (LHD 5)

Amphibious Assault Ship

Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia

[www.bataan.navy.mil](http://www.bataan.navy.mil)



The principal mission of WASP Class ships is to enable the Navy/Marine Corps team to accomplish a seamless transition from the sea to a land battle, primarily as the command ship of an Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG). LHDs are specifically designed to lay off a troubled area of the world, and insert forces ashore by helicopters and 50 mph LCAC hovercraft. The assault forces are provided combat air support by embarked AV-8B Harrier II V/STOL "jump-jets".

In its role of commanding an ESG, an LHD is fully capable of amphibious assault, advance force and special purpose operations, as well as non-combatant evacuation and other humanitarian missions. Additionally, the ships are fully-equipped with command and control (C4I) systems for flagship command duty; and have medical facilities -- including a 600 bed hospital -- second only to the Navy's Hospital Ships in capability.

In carrying out its primary mission, BATAAN transports and lands not only troops, but also the tanks, trucks and other vehicles, artillery, ammunition, and all supplies necessary to fully support the assault. The assault support system aboard ship coordinates horizontal and vertical movement of troops, cargo and vehicles. Monorail trains, moving at speeds up to 600-feet-per-minute, transport cargo and supplies from storage and staging areas throughout the ship to a 13,600-square foot well deck, which opens to the sea through huge gates in the ship's stern. There, the cargo, as well as troops and vehicles, are loaded aboard landing craft for transit to the beach. The LCAC "fly" out of the dry well deck, or the well deck can be ballasted down for conventional craft to float out on their way to the beach. At the same time, helicopters are brought from the hangar deck to the flight deck by two deck-edge elevators, and loaded with supplies from three massive cargo elevators.

LHD-5's armament system includes the NATO Sea Sparrow Surface Missile System (NSSMS) for anti-air warfare protection, two Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) Systems and two Phalanx Close-in Weapon System (CIWS) mounts to counter threats from low flying aircraft and close-in small craft. Six missile decoy launchers augment anti-ship missile defenses.

From Sept. 19, 2001 to April 20, 2002 BATAAN deployed to the Mediterranean, North Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf and participated in Operations Bright Star and Enduring Freedom. During Operation Enduring Freedom, the ship set numerous records during 118-consecutive days off the coast of Pakistan while Marines of the 26<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit, based on BATAAN, marched nearly 700 nautical miles into Afghanistan in support on the War on Terrorism. Port visits included Souda Bay, Crete; Valleta, Malta; Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates; and Rota, Spain. The ship was deployed for 213 days -- significantly longer than the normal 180 days.

Nine months later the ship deployed again, this time as part of Amphibious Task Force East (Jan. 12, 2003 -- June 30, 2003). During the six month deployment, BATAAN carried 24 AV-8B Harriers and, along with USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) from the Pacific Fleet, became one of TF 51's "Harrier Carriers," launching air strikes and close air support missions twenty four hours a day during the major combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Just six months later, the ship deployed for the third time in 28 months (Jan. 19, 2004 -- March 31, 2004). This time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) troop rotation. This mission was different not only because of its three-month length, but also because the mission was slightly different. The crew offloaded Marines for 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF), along with their equipment and ammunition, into Kuwait. In keeping with the FRP tenant of presence with a purpose, the ship returned home after the offload.

### SHIP'S SPECIFICATIONS:

#### GENERAL

Length - 844 ft.  
Beam (Maximum)- 106 ft.  
Speed: 24+ knots  
Draft (Navigational)- 27 ft.  
Displacement- 42,252 tons  
Complement 104 Officer/1,004 Enlisted  
Marines: 1,894

#### ENGINEERING

Propulsion: 2 Main engines powered  
by 600 psi boilers developing  
70,000 Shaft Horsepower each  
Electrical:  
Services:

#### SENSORS

SPS-49  
SPS-55  
MK 92 Fire Control System  
SQS-56  
SQR-19 Towed Array

#### WEAPONS

Rolling Airframe Anti-Ship Missile Launching  
Systems  
NATO Sea Sparrow Surface-to-Air Missile  
Launching Systems  
Phalanx Close-In-Weapons Systems  
25mm Gun Mounts  
50-Caliber Gun Mounts

#### AIRCRAFT

Keel Laid: March 16, 1994

Christened: March 15, 1996

Commissioned: September 20, 1997